

in this House with a view to doing the best for our country. If we put aside all partisan considerations, as I think we should under the circumstances, we will agree that the minister did not, perhaps, give wise consideration to that feature of the proposed legislation. However, when the Bill comes before the House, many of its provisions will be discussed, and many of them will be changed.

I desire to congratulate the minister upon placing a duty upon apples coming into this country. Before the war I had the pleasure of going West almost every year. One thing that has always struck me is that the fruit trade in the West, especially in the Middle West, was entirely under the control of the American Fruit Trust. It did not matter whether Canadian apples were good or cheap, no man selling apples in the West would dare purchase eastern or western Canadian apples if he was getting other fruits from American firms. The American Fruit Trust informed the retailers and jobbers in the Canadian West that if they wanted to get oranges, bananas, and lemons from the United States, they must purchase also American grapes, apples, and other fruits. The result was that our fruit was blocked out of the Canadian Northwest. Great areas of fine apples are under culture in British Columbia, and it is necessary to see that this basic industry is properly protected.

Large quantities of oil are imported into this country, and of necessity there must be some form of taxation, particularly in view of the fact that in various sections of the country we have other kinds of fuel, such as coal.

The tax which we are objecting to, that which applies to companies, will strike quiet a number of the most efficient companies in Canada, while a number of companies owned by foreigners will be entirely free from taxation. There are in Canada a large number of concerns controlled by foreigners; some of them as a matter of fact are controlled by Germans. A large copper corporation in the West is controlled by a German syndicate by means of trustees. We have it on the authority of a statement in the British House of Commons, made last month by men of responsibility, that the nickel industry in Canada is controlled by the Krupp interests through trustees in the United States. When you bear in mind the fact that the nickel mines of Canada alone are sufficiently wealthy to finance the war for five or ten years and still leave a dividend, you will realize how important

the control of these mines is to the Germans. Some action should be taken to see that materials connected with this industry are manufactured in Canada; at the very least, they should be subject to some taxation. The same state of affairs existed in Australia, where zinc concentrates of great value were controlled by German syndicates with headquarters at Frankfurt. The Government of Australia took the bull by the horns. They immediately cancelled the ownership of these mines controlled by the Germans, and the British Government is now getting these zinc concentrates from Australia. I think it would be wise for the Government of this country to make a thorough investigation into the affairs of the International Nickel Company with a view to ascertaining whether the statements to which I have referred are true. If its affairs are controlled by Germans, we should know it; Germans are not very friendly to us just at this time.

I have heard the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce make a number of able speeches in this House, but I confess that I never heard him make a more eloquent speech than he did the other evening. The hon. minister is fully alive to the fact that the Germans have decided to carry on after the conclusion of this war a great trade war against the Allies. Possibly the hon. gentleman's position did not permit his making known what suggestions have been adopted or what course is being taken to meet the German onslaught that is sure to take place after this war is over. Hon. gentlemen may say: how do you know that the Germans intend to carry on a commercial war at the conclusion of the present conflict? We all know that whether Germany wins or loses, she will at least have Austria included within her Empire.

In Germany they are already looking forward to the carrying on of a further commercial war against the Allies. Early in December a Secret Congress was held in Vienna between the various interests of Germany and Austria and the various states within the German Bund. At that congress certain resolutions were agreed to that are to govern their conduct after the war. There was but one purpose in those resolutions, to retain their interior trade to themselves and to take trade away from the Allies. We all know very well how Germany has conducted its affairs for a number of years. It might be well for us to take a short retrospect of